



NORTHERN ROCKIES COORDINATING GROUP

May 25, 2007

RECEIVED

JUN 07 2007

To: Local Government Administrators

Ravalli County Commissioners

For well over 20 years now the Northern Rockies Geographic Area has prided itself in being able to field some of the country's finest incident management teams to respond to fires, and more recently all hazard incidents, both within the geographic area and throughout the nation. One of the main reasons we have been so successful with our teams has been everyone's willingness to allow participation at all levels of our organizations. This has never been more important than it is today. With reduced work forces and "baby boomers" retirements happening daily, our ability to maintain what we currently have as incident management teams is in serious jeopardy.

Years ago we adopted an interagency approach to staffing our teams, and this concept has been extremely successful in improving every aspect of our fire management responsibilities. The improved relationships and firefighting contribution that has been made by local government participation cannot be overstated. The Northern Rockies Coordinating Group wishes to improve and expand opportunities for you and your employees to participate, especially on our geographic area incident management teams.

To this end, NRCG is committed to improving the participation of local and state government on these teams. We realize there is a vast, somewhat untapped, pool of individual resources with a great willingness to participate. We especially need to look to resources in non-traditional firefighting ranks, such as in our administrative support and budget areas. We ask that you offer this opportunity and encourage anyone interested to participate. If there are individuals who need training assignments to complete task books, we need to know today so we can facilitate completion of training requirements. We need to know of individuals newly interested in participation so the training and experience can begin. Please contact Mike Kopitzke, DNRC Training and Prevention Section Supervisor, at (406) 542-4223 or Jim Blankenship, DNRC Training Officer, at (406) 542-4282 for assistance.

Our efforts to encourage participation of more local government people will be a great benefit to everyone in the geographic area. We look forward to enhanced participation and continually improving our relationships across the geographic area.

Sincerely,

/s/ Thomas A. Corbin

THOMAS A. CORBIN

Chair, Northern Rockies Coordinating Group

Montana DNRC
Montana Firewardens Association
Montana Division of Disaster
and Emergency Services
MT Sheriffs and Peace Officers' Association

Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
US Fish and Wildlife Service

USDA Forest Service
Idaho Department of Lands
North Dakota Forest Service
Fire Chief's Association